

The Waste Report's "Worldwide Waste" Series
Examining waste in U.S. foreign assistance programs

Part 4: Foreign Infrastructure Development

This edition highlights:

- \$326 million for rehabilitating dirt roads in Afghanistan.
 - Taxpayers paid \$2.7 million per mile of dirt road.
 - The project's goal was to rehabilitate as many as 2,000 kilometers of road, but only 159 kilometers were completed.
 - \$32 million was spent on community outreach instead of actual roads.
 - An employee of the contractor made off with \$75,000 in cash and couldn't be found.
- \$233 million for a highway in Afghanistan.
 - The original project budget was \$69 million.
 - A mysterious security subcontractor was suspected of funneling money to the Haqqani network.
 - Security contractors only showed up to work on pay day.
- \$43 million spent by the Department of Defense for a natural gas filling station in Afghanistan that nobody could use.
- Nearly \$400 million in lost equipment across Afghanistan, including vehicle spare parts and heavy equipment sent to Afghanistan to help create an engineering brigade of the Afghan army.
- \$1.7 million to raise electricity awareness in Afghanistan
 - Project included a campaign to emphasize to the public that they must pay for electricity in order to receive electric service.
 - Hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars had already been poured into Afghanistan to boost the electric sector before the public awareness campaign.
- \$78 million to rebuild aging gas infrastructure in Georgia while even older gas infrastructure in the United States is exploding and killing Americans.
- \$1 million to improve highway safety in Burma.
- More than \$1.7 million spent in Cambodia to promote motorcycle helmet laws.
 - Project included a taxpayer-backed Cambodian TV awareness campaign, in which the ghosts of dead motorcycle riders confront a family, scaring them into wearing helmets.